

## AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A stabilized retardant composition comprising:  
  
at least one of a polymer resin;  
  
about 5 to 300 parts by weight of a hydrated metal compound per 100 parts by weight of  
said polymer resin;  
  
an effective stabilizing amount of a synergistic mixture of:
  - a) a first stabilizer comprising at least one compound selected from the group  
consisting of: amine oxide stabilizers, hydroxylamine stabilizers, nitron stabilizers, nitroxyl  
stabilizers, benzofuranone stabilizers; quinone methide stabilizers, and monoacrylate esters of  
2,2'-alkylidenebisphenol stabilizers; and
  - b) a second stabilizer comprising at least one compound selected from the group  
consisting of phosphite and phosphonite stabilizers.
2. (Currently Amended) The stabilized flame retardant composition of claim 1, wherein  
said hydrated metal compound is a metal ~~hydrates~~ hydroxide or metal oxide.
3. (Currently Amended) The stabilized flame retardant composition of claim ~~1~~ 2, wherein  
said metal hydroxide is selected from the group consisting of magnesium hydroxide and  
aluminum hydroxide.
4. (Currently Amended) The stabilized flame retardant composition of claim 3, wherein  
said polymer resin is ~~one of a~~ polypropylene, polyethylene or a polypropylene blend;  
~~Polypropylene blends, e.g., thermoplastic olefin (TPO)[[.]] or a thermoplastic elastomer (TPE).~~

5. (Original) The stabilized flame retardant composition of claim 1, wherein said first stabilizer additive is an amine oxide.

6. (Original) The stabilized flame retardant composition of claim 1, wherein said first stabilizer additive is a hydroxyl amine.

7. (Currently Amended) The stabilized flame retardant composition of claim 3, containing at least 5 parts by weight of ~~a~~ the magnesium hydroxide per 100 parts by weight of said polymer resin, wherein said polymer resin is a polypropylene.

8. (Currently Amended) A process for the stabilization of a composition comprising at least one ~~a~~-polymer resin and about 1 to 100 parts by weight of a hydrated metal compound per 100 parts by weight of said polymer resin, said process comprising adding to a polymer resin composition an effective stabilizing amount of a synergistic mixture of a first stabilizer additive comprising at least one compound selected from the group consisting ~~one~~ of an amine oxide ~~or~~ and a hydroxyl amine and a second stabilizer comprising at least one compound selected from the group consisting of phosphite and phosphonite stabilizers.

9. (Original) The process of claim 8, wherein said hydrated metal compound is a metal hydroxide.

10. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 8, wherein said a metal hydroxide is selected from the group consisting of magnesium hydroxide and aluminum hydroxide.

11. (Original) The process of claim 8, wherein said polymer resin is a polyolefin.

12. (Currently Amended) A process for forming articles having improved melt stability and color stability, said process comprising the steps of:

a) melt blending a composition comprising:

at least one ~~of~~ a polymeric resin;

about 1 to 100 parts by weight of a hydrated metal compound per 100 parts by weight of said polymeric resin; and

an effective stabilizing amount of a synergistic mixture of a first stabilizer additive comprising at least one compound selected from the group consisting of ~~one~~ of an amine oxide ~~or~~ and a hydroxyl amine and a second stabilizer additive comprising at least one compound selected from the group consisting of ~~one~~ of a phosphite ~~or~~ and a phosphonite stabilizer; and,

b) forming shaped articles thereof from said blend.

13 (Original) Articles comprising the composition of claim 1.

14. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 12, wherein said polymeric resin is ~~one of~~ a polypropylene, polyethylene[[,]] or a polypropylene blend ~~blends~~.

15 (Currently Amended) The process of claim 12, wherein said hydrated metal compound is a metal hydroxide ~~hydrates~~ or metal oxide.

16. (Original) The process of claim 12, wherein said stabilizer additive is a hydroxyl amine.

17. (Canceled).

18. (Original) The stabilized flame retardant composition of claim 1, further comprising at least one of an alkaline metal oxide, an alkali metal salt, and an alkaline earth metal.

19. (Original) The stabilized flame retardant composition of claim 18, further comprising a calcium carbonate.

20. (New) The stabilized flame retardant composition of claim 1, wherein said polymer resin is a thermoplastic olefin or a thermoplastic elastomer.

21. (New) The stabilized flame retardant composition of claim 2, wherein said metal hydroxide has a particle diameter of about 0.1  $\mu\text{m}$  to 10  $\mu\text{m}$ .

22. (New) The stabilized flame retardant composition of claim 1, wherein said hydrated metal compound is a metal hydroxide or metal oxide and said first stabilizer additive is an amine oxide or a hydroxyl amine.